

### Water, Water, But Not Everywhere

#### The "Water Emergency"

In late July, the City declared a "water emergency" due to extremely reduced water flow from the Smoky Hill River.

The City's water supply starts in western Kansas, is stored in Kanopolis Lake, and released for environmental purposes for use by the City of Salina and farmers along the way.

While this has been a stable source of water for decades, drought conditions in Kansas west of Kanopolis Lake have created lake levels much lower than desired.

#### Some Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns and runs Kanopolis Lake. Due to low lake levels this summer, they are discharging the minimum required flow of 50 cubic feet per second (CFS) into the Smoky Hill River, about 374 gallons per second or 32.3 million gallons over a 24-hour period. Of this amount, the City uses about 7 to 10 CFS (4.5 to 6.5 million gallons) per day in the summer.

This is just over one-half of our daily summer use, with the remaining raw water coming from local wells. While 50 CFS sounds like a lot of water, those of us east of Kanopolis Lake typically see twice this amount of summer flow, even during dry times.

With lower than necessary river flows in late July, City officials were planning to issue a "water warning" with moderate watering restrictions. News articles on both the 25<sup>th</sup> and

26<sup>th</sup> of July warned of the possibility of the City's plan of instituting a water warning and a request that the

State protect our water rights along the river.

This was characterized in the headline as "Salina officials may ask state to shut down irrigators today."

We believe that this information

prompted a sudden and unprecedented peak in river water use, which brought the river flows in Salina to about 1 CFS, or around 13% of the minimum amount of water needed from the river.

Once this occurred, City officials decided that a water emergency was needed for a few days in order to stabilize the river flow.

We then worked with the State to ensure 7.5 CFS of flow from the Smoky Hill River made its way to Salina for use. This is about half the amount of water for which the City has State-issued rights and could have requested.

City officials purposely chose not to ask for the full amount in order to keep agricultural crops alive between Kanopolis Lake and Salina.

The water emergency worked as planned and the City then went to a water warning on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We are still under a water warning today. This experience has helped us to see that our current *Municipal Water Conservation Plan* needs review as it does not fully take into consideration all deciding aspects related to water availability, consumption and related restrictions.



Softening and Secondary Basins at the Water Plant

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#### Dear Salina Citizen,

The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the summer 2006 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue informs you about City projects, and stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

In this exciting and challenging time for our community, the City Commission and members of City staff encourage you to ask questions and make your views known!

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Salina City Commission



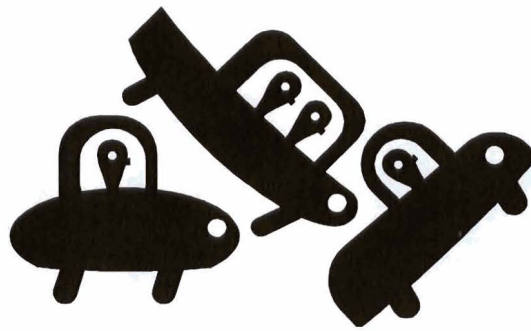
## Stellar Year For Traffic Safety - *Safety is our top priority*

The more than 2,200 traffic accidents recorded in Salina each year pose a greater threat to the personal safety, physical health and economic well-being of our citizens than all categories of crime combined.

Investment in traffic safety by City officials is paying handsome dividends for our community. A record low 42 alcohol related crashes (ARCs) were recorded in 2005. This all-time record low represents an amazing 65% decrease, when compared to the record high 121 ARCs recorded in 1992. Calendar year 2005's all-time record low 335 injury producing accidents also represents a 32% decrease (157 fewer injury accidents) when compared to 1992's record high of 492.

Those reductions are even more notable considering the increase in traffic volumes and an increase in the number of driving distractions such as mobile phones.

Providing Salina's citizens and visitors with safe roadway travel is one of our City's top priorities. We do this through the promotion of the three Es — traffic Enforcement, public Education and traffic Engineering.



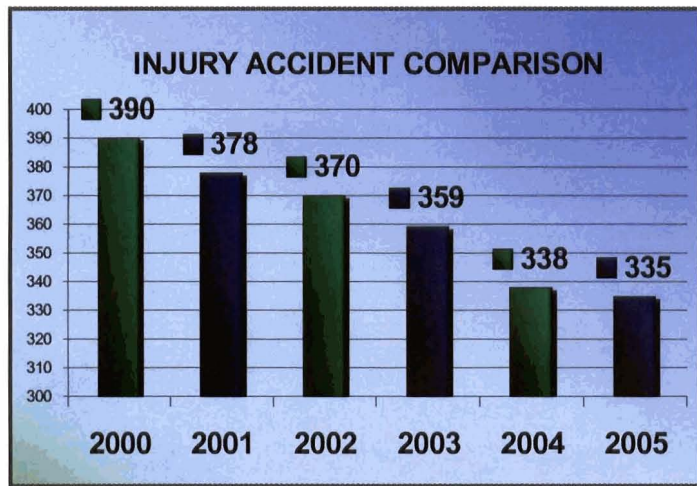
The three Es are administered by Salina's Traffic Safety Team, made up of staff members from the Police Department, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Engineering Division, Streets Division and the public school district.

The team meets regularly to develop solutions to common traffic safety concerns in our community. When concerns were raised about the safety of children walking and riding bikes to school, the group helped to develop safe walking routes to schools and recommended a program to build more sidewalks and crosswalks.

A few years ago, a review of traffic speed enforcement activity resulted in an engineering determination that some speed limits in town were actually set too low on certain streets. As a result, the City Commission raised the speed limits at these locations, reducing unnecessary traffic violations and keeping traffic accidents at a minimum.

On a daily basis, City staff works with builders to ensure that controlled access is maintained to building sites without compromising traffic safety. Finally, roadway construction work zones in Salina are carefully designed by traffic engineers, diligently enforced by police officers and regularly advertised to the general public.

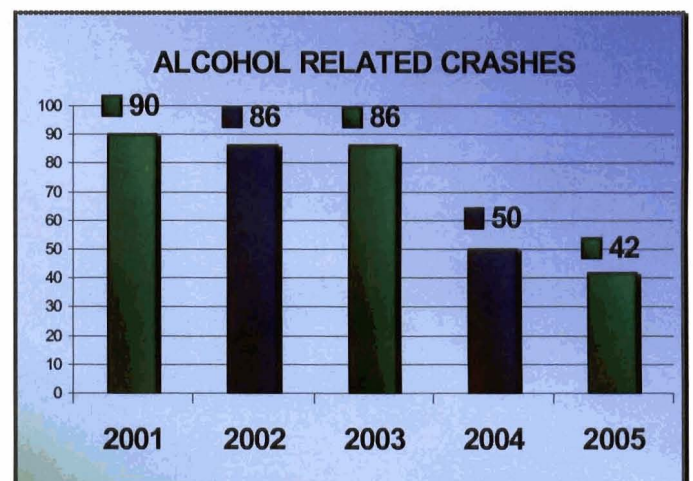
If we buckle up more, we can make 2006 a record breaking traffic safety year. While some traffic accidents will still occur, increased use of seat belts will result in much fewer and less severe injuries.



**Sixteen percent reduction from 2000.**



**107 percent reduction from the average of 2001-2005.**



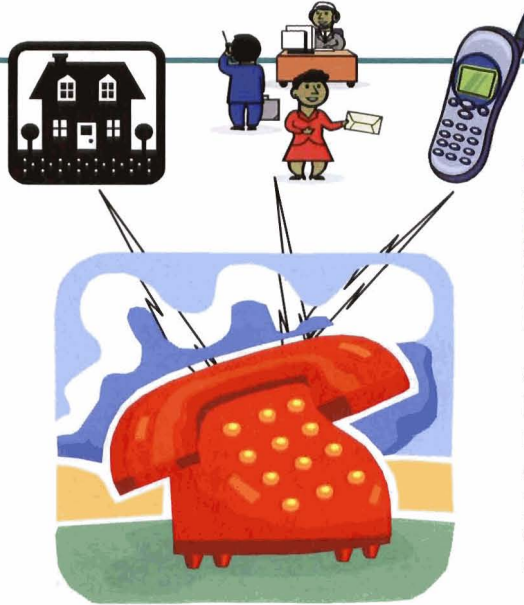


## CodeRED

In April of 2006, the City of Salina and Saline County instituted the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. This is an ultra high-speed telephone communication service for emergency notifications.

The CodeRED system allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the city and county in cases of an emergency that requires immediate attention. When an emergency occurs, a recorded message will be delivered to a live person or an answering machine. This system is capable of dialing 60,000 phone numbers per hour.

We currently have a database for landline telephones in Salina/Saline County, supplied by AT&T. We believe this list contains the



majority of landline phones in the city and county, but there is no guarantee that all numbers are in the system. Citizens can easily enter their landline or cellular phone numbers by going

to the City's website at <http://www.salina-ks.gov/Police/CodeRED.htm>. Simply click on the icon, and enter the required information. Mobile phones can be entered here as well.

On July 27, 2006, CodeRED was launched for the very first time in response to Salina's recent water emergency. Calling started at 1:19 p.m. and within 27 minutes, 31,079 calls were placed throughout our community.

CodeRED is a fairly inexpensive, but powerfully high-tech public safety tool. It now provides your local government with a means of immediate emergency warning communication that we have never had before.

## Fire Station No. 2 Project Well Underway

You may have noticed significant changes recently taking place at Fire Station No. 2, located on South Santa Fe Avenue. This project is the result of a fire station location report in 2000 that recommended an upgrade in fire response capabilities for the central part of our community.

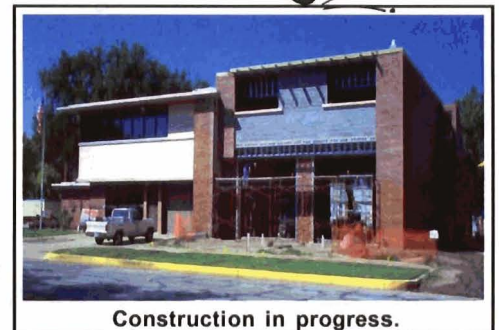
This report was completed in 2001 by Almont Associates, a fire service consulting firm from Colorado. The purpose was to review the location of all of Salina's fire stations, taking into consideration both current and future fire response needs. The report included many recommendations regarding manpower and equipment deployment. While the results indicated that Salina's other three stations were properly located, it also identified Fire Station No. 2 as the site for a power station for emergency response.

Fire Station No. 2 was built in 1957

and designed for a single fire company of 3 to 4 personnel, with no accommodations for women. The station operated with a single company until 1983, until the fire department absorbed the ambulance service. The station now houses two additional personnel.

The Almont report recommended enlarging the Santa Fe station and transferring to it a rescue/ladder company from Fire Station No. 3, located on Belmont Boulevard. The report clearly illustrated that a rescue/ladder company would serve the community much better by responding from this central location.

Harbin Construction, LLC of Salina has been busy at work on Fire Station No. 2 since March of this year. When complete, the fire station will have two additional vehicle bays, new upstairs living quarters, and a partially remodeled living area. Construc-



tion progress is going very well, where a noticeable difference can be seen from the street. During construction, the fire company assigned to this station is temporarily living in the house just behind the station. Upon completion of the project, the house will be removed and replaced with improved, pull-through station access and much needed parking. Completion of this important project is expected by early 2007.



## Arts & Humanities - *Impacting lives through cultural growth*

The Arts & Humanities Department of the City of Salina is dedicated to serving the needs of ALL Salinans. Our mission is to utilize the power of arts and humanities to change lives and build community. Cultural growth is what we do. Some of our core programs include:

### Community Art and Design

How many cities of nearly 50,000 have a public art program? Salina is one of the few. Intended to bring art to where people live and work, the program has resulted in aesthetic elements added to buildings across Salina. The most familiar projects can be found at the Animal Shelter, Municipal Court and Municipal Water Works buildings. But it doesn't end there. The Arts & Humanities Department also played a major role in improving the learning environment in Salina schools by providing artists for many of the public school district's major facility projects. These included floor treatments, murals and ceramics works, just to name a few.

### Community Service Programs

All year long, Arts & Humanities functions as a resource for cultural exchange and artistic development. We produce the Art a la Carte series in the spring and fall, the Cultural Calendar (published three times per year) and the Spring Poetry Reading Series. We contend that there is some kind of art for everyone—all year long!

### Smoky Hill Museum

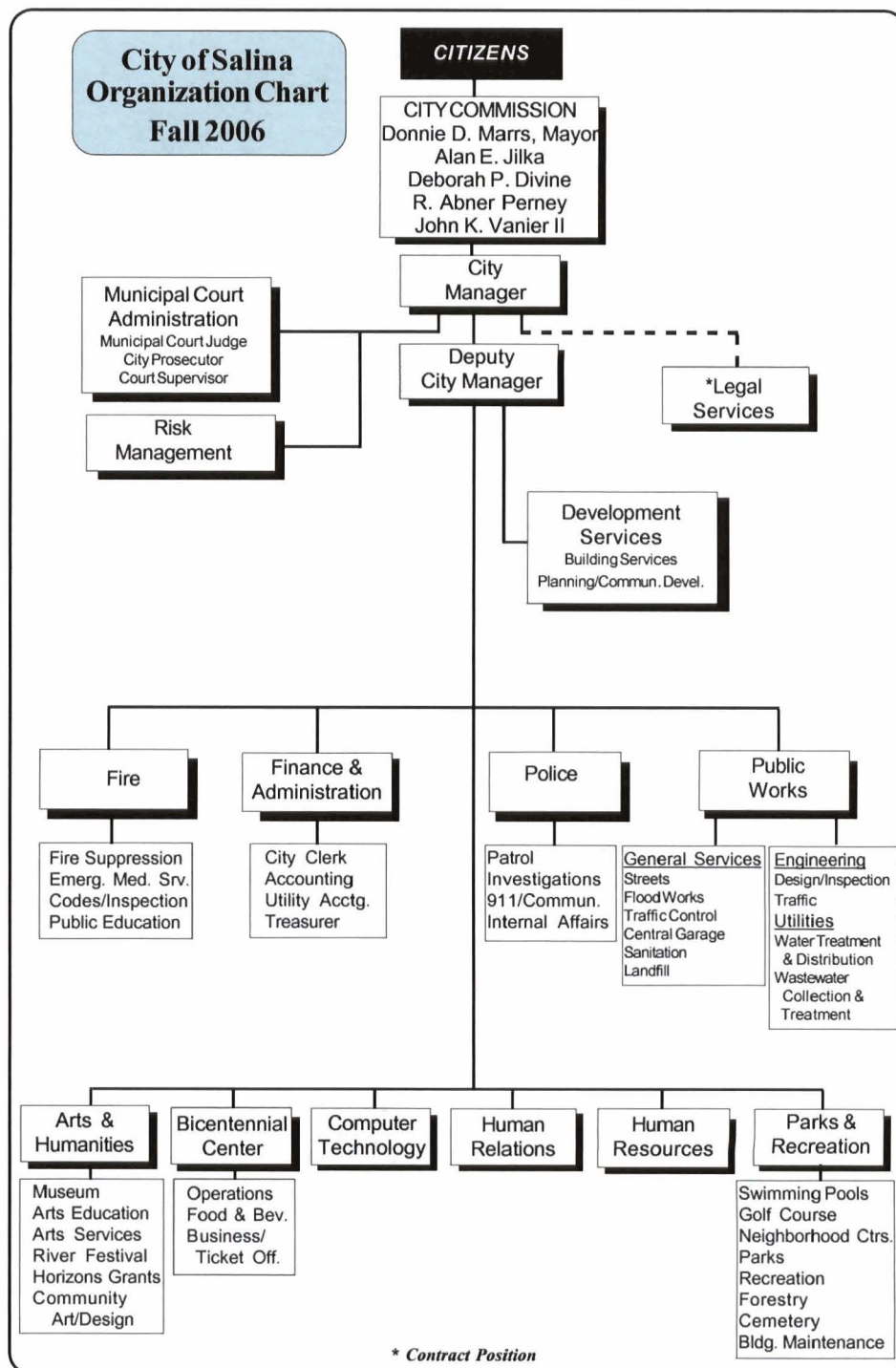
The Museum's new gallery opened in April with an old-time street fair attended by over 4,000 people. Besides a beautifully designed display of Salina history, the Museum provides history-based programming year-round. This includes: Noon Coolers, Kansas Day events, Junior Explorers and Santa Fe Day. The Smoky Hill Museum is a resource for study, reflection and en-

tertainment for all Salinans.

### Smoky Hill River Festival

This is the landmark event of the year for many Salinans. The Arts & Humanities Department coordinates all aspects of the Festival, from programming and logistics, to fundraising and volunteer coordina-

tion. This event is a truly wonderful collaboration between City departments, its volunteers and its citizens.





## Homeland Security Dollars With A Purpose

*The most efficient way to respond to hazmat spills*

The City of Salina's Fire Department has received \$560,000 in equipment awarded through a 2005 Department of Homeland Security grant. We believe this equipment will make

fuel spills.

Homeland Security funding has also provided an opportunity to enhance fire response safety through the purchase of 52 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and two rapid intervention team packs. We now have the most up-to-date respiratory protection and rapid intervention tools available.

a big difference in how well we respond to public emergencies. This Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program assists local fire departments in the funding of fire-



Get a hazmat spill and we'll be there.

fighting equipment and health/safety programs throughout the United States.

Most fire departments are not properly equipped to handle a true hazardous materials (hazmat) emergency. This cannot be said of Salina as we received our new hazardous materials response vehicle last March. For years, the Fire Department has strived to enhance our ability to respond to and mitigate hazmat emergencies. These incidents encompass a wide variety of situations including fires, chemical spills, transportation accidents, chemical reactions and explosions.

The Salina Fire Department is also a State of Kansas designated regional hazmat response team and participates regionally as a Homeland Security responder. Our team covers 12 counties in the north central region of Kansas. Technician-level, certified training is required of our personnel. This keeps us prepared for those hazmat events most likely to occur, such as a transportation accident involving chemical or

operating inside a structure fire can now see the status of their breathing air through a heads-up, lighted display. Low air alarms will also provide a warning when the air supply is low.

This equipment also provides the Incident Commander (IC) with the ability to know of the firefighters' breathing air status through wireless transmission of this safety information. Since these alarms and alerts are now shared with the IC, the command staff can better respond to situations in which firefighters may be in danger. The new units can also emit an audible alarm, which assists rescue crews in locating a troubled firefighter.

With all the fuss we read and hear about the use of Homeland Security funding, we can be sure that funds provided to Salina are used as intended. Our goal is very simple – to enhance our emergency response preparedness capabilities, while increasing safety for our responders.

Visit our website:  
[www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov)



A safer way to move patients.



Prior to this year, a significant amount of back injuries sustained by EMS personnel were due primarily to lifting patients from awkward positions and transporting them down stairs. Past equipment used to reduce these injuries still required at least two EMS personnel and didn't fully eliminate the back stress.

As a result, the Salina Fire Department placed the Stryker Stair Chair into service in January of this year. This stair chair has proven to be much more stable, has greatly reduced the amount of physical stress placed on the EMS personnel, and provides added safety for the patient when descending down stairs. A single person can now safely and quickly move a patient down the stairs with little to no back strain. This piece of equipment is just a small example of an efficiency improvement that results in safer patient transport, fewer employee injuries and a quicker overall emergency response.



## Salina's Capital Improvement Program - Putting orange barrels to good use!

A city's capital improvement program (CIP) is one of the most important elements of municipal government. The reason is simple. This plan is what dictates how a major part of your taxes are invested to build a better community for everyone. Like 2006, we expect 2007 and 2008 to be extremely active years, with numerous street projects to be under construction throughout town. 2007 also offers an additional investment of \$1 million from special sales tax funds for needed roadway improvements. This significant increase in funding was determined by the City Commission to be needed as we continue to maintain and enhance our local street network.

Our CIP strategy is consistent with past years. (1) Maintain the capacity and function of essential facilities serving the overall city, (2) Upgrade public facilities in areas where deficiencies may exist and, (3) Provide new and expanded facilities in locations experiencing growth and development. We believe the CIP is one of the primary tools for shaping our community. That is why we are constantly soliciting your input and advice. This year we once again ask that you fill out and return the enclosed "CIP Suggestion Card". This is a very quick and easy way to communicate public project needs as you seen them. Please take the time to help us improve your community!

Below are some examples of projects expected to be either completed or under construction in 2006, and those planned for 2007 and 2008.

### **Stormwater Projects**

2006 - Downtown drainage / others TBD  
(\$240,000)

XAlley - Ash to Iron

XAlley - Walnut to Mulberry

(2006/2007) FEMA Remapping Project  
Prescott Pipeline - Santa Fe to Second

### **N. Broadway Corridor** (2006)

Improve traffic safety at three intersections  
Convert from 4 lanes to 3 lanes  
Rehabilitate pavement and drainage systems  
(\$2.6 Million)

### **Downtown Traffic Signals** (2006)

Upgrade 4 antiquated traffic signals in downtown Salina. (\$800,000)

### **South Ohio Street** (2007)

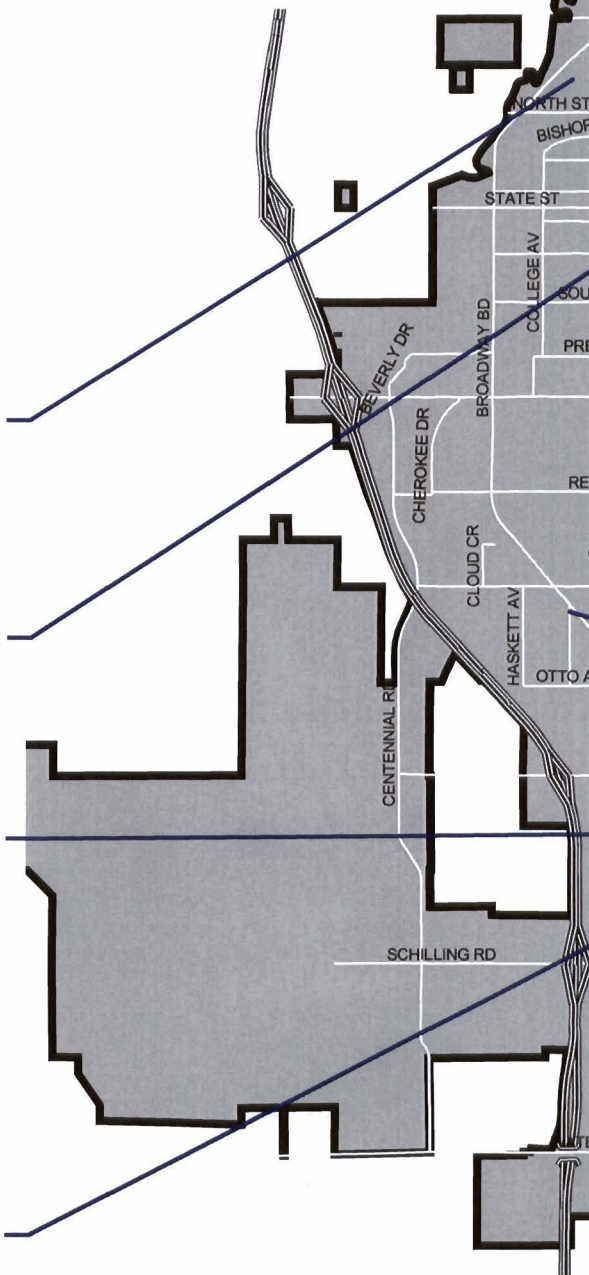
- Reconstruction and widening from 2-lanes to 4-lanes, Magnolia Road to Schilling Road  
(\$3.0 Million)

### **Utility Enhancements** (2006)

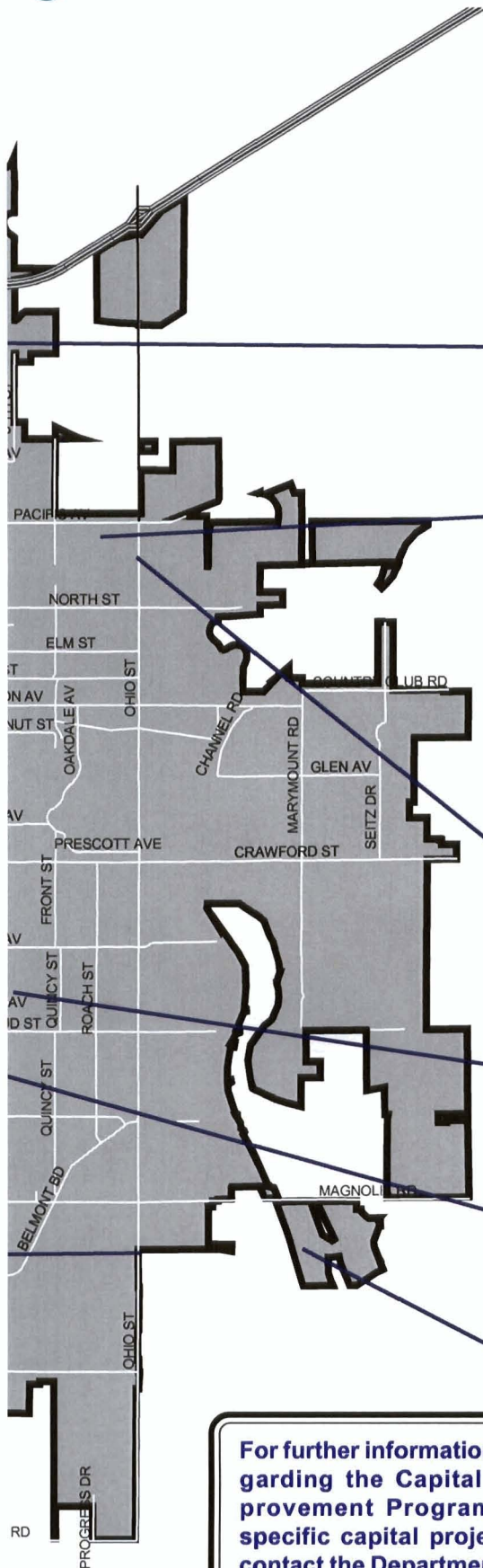
Various locations for Water / Sewer systems  
(\$1,180,000)

### **South Ninth Street Corridor** (2008)

Belmont Blvd. to Water Well Rd.  
Design work in 2007 (\$5.0 Million)





**Wayfinding Signage and Median Landscaping** (2006)

KDOT grant project on N. 9th St and W. Crawford St.  
New directional signage master plan city-wide (\$450,000)

**N. 9th St Bridge Enhancements** (2006)

Median aesthetics on southbound bridge over Mulberry Creek  
(\$80,000)

**East Pacific Avenue** (2006)

Upgrade street / drainage system from rural to urban  
(\$300,000)

**Street Maintenance** (2006)

-Mill / Overlay - East Magnolia / Front / Ash  
-Street Reconstruction - Osborne Street (Cloud to Claflin)  
-Other projects to be determined  
(\$1,400,000)

**North Ohio Overpass** (2005 - 2007)

New 600' bridge over railroad tracks on  
North Ohio St ; Realignment of Pacific / US Hwy 40; New rail spur  
(\$20.2 Million)

**Fire Station #2 Project** (2006)

Expand station capacity and capability (\$1.2 Million)

**Broadway / Hageman Intersection** (2007)

Geometric Improvements - realignment of south leg, removal  
of pedestrian bridge and cul-de-sac north leg (\$500,000)

**Soccer Complex** (2006)

Salina Soccer Complex on East Magnolia Rd,  
5 new fields (\$1.5 Million)

**For further information re-  
garding the Capital Im-  
provement Program or  
specific capital projects,  
contact the Department of  
Public Works at 309-5725.**

**Sidewalk Ramps / Arterial Sidewalks** (2006)

-Arterial Sidewalks  
X Crawford (Fairdale to Markley)  
X Ray (Gail to Berkeley)  
(\$150,000)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## What Does This Mean for Salina's Future?

We now know that without some conservation, minimum river flows during a typical Salina summer are not enough to meet the daily needs of both local agricultural users and the City. This low level of flow is expected to continue into next year, unless the area west of Kanopolis Lake gets a great deal of moisture prior to next summer.

An additional factor to consider is that the Kansas Water Office is currently in the process of trying to sell water capacity from Kanopolis Lake, which could increase consumption even more during dry times.

With these conditions, the City has started planning for low river flows next year and into the future. City water well levels are currently lower than normal, but not to a point of prompting long-term concern. However, our objective is still to rely as little as possible on well water in order to preserve both current groundwater levels and quality. As a result, the following action plan will be undertaken over the next few months.

- ❧ Review and modify our current *Municipal Water Conservation Plan*;
- ❧ Plan for long-term raw water supply needs;
- ❧ Review and identify reasonable community water consumption targets and conservation measures;

- ❧ Review our existing water rate schedule to consider seasonal rate adjustments, with water conservation in mind;
- ❧ Ensure the long-term preservation of river water availability to Salina by reviewing applicable state and federal laws, regulations, contracts and agency roles;
- ❧ Coordinate local water needs and availability with our major agricultural partners;
- ❧ Review landscaping requirements to emphasize water conservation; and
- ❧ Inventory and review the groundwater impact of private and domestic wells.

We believe these actions will benefit our community in the short and long-term by establishing a "reasonable" level of ongoing conservation.

## We're At Your Service

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's official municipal website: [www.salina-ks.gov](http://www.salina-ks.gov)

In addition, we will be even more prepared to respond to the impacts of the occasional but severe drought. Please feel free to contact the Utilities Division at 309-5725 if you have questions or would like additional information.

## Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

The Director of Human Resources has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

*For information contact:*

**ADA Coordinator  
(785) 309-5710**

Human Resources  
City of Salina  
300 W. Ash

Salina, Kansas 67401  
Phone: (785) 309-5710  
(TDD) (785) 309-5747

Articles were written by city staff, with design and editing by LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Please call the City Manager's office at (785) 309-5700.

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## CITY COMMISSIONERS WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736.

Commissioner's phone numbers are:

Deborah Divine	823-3447
Alan Jilka	827-0002
Donnie Marrs	823-6002
R. Abner Perney	452-9711
John K. Vanier II	823-3794